GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
SMUGGLING OF RED SANDALWOOD
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that smuggling of Red Sandalwood is going on in the country especially in Southern Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any request from Andhra Pradesh to curtail Red Sandalwood smuggling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) The Government is aware about the smuggling of Red Sander wood. As per the report of Government of Andhra Pradesh the Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus) is endemic to the forests of Seshachalam, Vellgonda, Lankamala and Palakonda hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh. Due to heavy demand for Red Sanders in China, Japan and other countries, the wood is prone to smuggling. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has seized the following Red Sanders wood in last five years:-

Year	No. of cases	Red Sanders seized (in tons)	No. of Vehicles seized	No. of persons arrested
2009-10	880	922.070	384	650
2010-11	1373	1250.210	772	1591
2011-12	1556	1437.179	985	2658
2012-13	1488	1389.583	1002	3139
2013-14	2058	1889.206	1566	4345

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide File Number 13018/05-2013-Prov. II, dated 29.09.2014 has accorded permission for procuring 125 numbers of Revolvers (0.32) along with 25,000 rounds of 0.32 mm SA ball and 250 numbers of 12 bore SBBL (20") pump action guns along with 20000 rounds of 12 bore cartridges.